

REMARKS

Claims 10 and 18 currently remain in the application. Claims 12-17 remain withdrawn as being addressed to a non-elected subject matter. Claims 1-9 and 11 have been canceled. Claim 10 is herein amended and claim 18 is a newly added claim.

In said Final Office Action dated April 16, 2008, claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over Kerkar in view of Ohta, further in view of Berke and still further in view of Kloetzer for the reasons given in the office action dated November 1, 2007. At least in part in view of the Examiner's reasons for the rejection, independent claim 1 is herein amended and presented as new independent claim 18, dependent claim 10 being amended to now depend from new independent claim 18. New independent claim 18 is different from the amended claim substantially in that Component A is now explained as having a structural unit shown by Formula 6.

In Formula 6, the first group subscripted with "p" is a part derived from maleic anhydride, although this part appears to derive from maleic acid because maleic anhydride opens ring easily to become maleic acid, the second group subscripted with "q" is a part derived from the monomer shown by Formula 1, and the third group subscripted with "r" is a part derived by a graft reaction of a polyether compound shown by Formula 2 with maleic anhydride (or maleic acid as explained above).

In the REMARKS section of the document entitled Amendment "K" After Final Action which was filed earlier in the present application, the structural units of the graft copolymer which is Component A and its salt were shown as Formulas A-1 and A-2, but Formula A-1 was presented for making it easier to explain that this derives from maleic anhydride and since this opens ring easily by hydrolysis to become maleic acid, Formula A-2 is actually a representative structural unit. Thus, Formula 6 including Formula A-2 may be regarded more correct as representing a structural unit. In the synthesis of graft copolymer (a-1) described from page 14 at line 23 to page 15 at line 9 of the specification, the result of analysis on the copolymer after a process corresponding to the first process was described but the graft copolymer after the process

corresponding to the second process of claim 1 comes to have a structural shown by Formula 6. In other words, the newly introduced limitation on Component A regarding Formula 6 is supported by the specification and hence the present amendment should be regarded as allowable because no new matter is thereby introduced.

In summary, graft copolymers and their salts serving as Component A of the present invention have a structural unit shown by Formula 6, being of a three-unit structure. This is believed to be of a significant difference from the copolymers of a two-unit structure disclosed by Kerker and also from the copolymers of a four-unit structure disclosed by Ohta, as discussed in detail by applicant in aforementioned document entitled Amendment "K" After Final Action.

Regarding Component B, the Examiner seems to be of the opinion (page 7 of said Final Office Action) that Fischer discloses polypropyleneglycol monoalkyl ether according to the present invention. The Examiner is requested to review the revised definition of Compound B with reference to Formula 3 and to thereby ascertain that Compound B as described now in new claim 18 with reference to Formula 3 is not described or even hinted at by Fischer.

Regarding Component C, applicant has already admitted that the disclosure by Klotzer partially describes the characteristics of Component C as required by the present invention.

In summary, the present invention relates to a multi-functional admixture for concrete comprising Components A, B and C at specified ratios, Components A and B not being described or even hinted at by any of the cited references. It is therefore believed that the present invention is not obvious even if the cited references are considered in whatever combination and hence that the present application should be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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